General Assembly

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Agenda item 52 (g)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/60/488/Add.7)*]

60/201. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/235 of 22 December 2004 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2]

Recalling its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

Reaffirming the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

Noting that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and encouraging affected country parties to include, as appropriate, in their national development strategies measures to combat desertification,

Stressing the need for further diversification of funding sources to address land degradation, in accordance with articles 20 and 21 of the Convention,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

Expressing its deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Kenya for hosting the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Nairobi from 17 to 28 October 2005,

Welcoming the offer made by the Government of Spain to host the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in the autumn of 2007,

Welcoming also the offer made by the Government of Argentina to host the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in September 2006,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[4] on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[5]

2. *Resolves to support and strengthen* the implementation of the Convention to address causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels;

3. *Notes with interest* the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session on the outcomes of the third and fourth sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;[6]

4. *Invites* the donor community to increase its support to the implementation of the Convention with a view to bringing greater international attention to bear on the issue of land degradation and desertification, which will contribute to the improvement of the sustainable development of drylands and the global environment;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session to conclude with the Council of the Global Environment Facility and to adopt the memorandum of understanding on enhanced collaboration between the Convention and the Facility;[6]

6. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to strengthen the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation;

7. *Also invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue to make resources available for capacity-building activities in affected country parties implementing the Convention;

8. *Takes note with interest* of ongoing efforts to diversify the availability of financial resources to support activities aimed at combating desertification and poverty;

9. *Calls upon* Governments, where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of all decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in particular the decisions taken at its seventh session on

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[4] A/60/171, sect. II.

[5] See ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1.

[6] Ibid., decision 6/COP.7 and annex.

strengthening of the Committee on Science and Technology and on the follow-up to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[5] and supports the development of a ten-year strategy to foster the implementation of the Convention;

11. *Notes* steps taken by the Conference of the Parties at it seventh session to introduce the euro as the budget and accounting currency as from the biennium 2008–2009;[7]

12. *Recalls* the request of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session that the Executive Secretary notify parties of their contributions for 2006 by 21 November 2005 and for 2007 by 1 October 2006 to encourage early payment,[7] and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for 1999 and/or the bienniums 2000–2001 and 2002–2003 to do so as soon as possible;

13. *Recognizes* the need to provide the secretariat of the Convention with stable, adequate and predictable resources in order to enable it to continue to discharge its responsibilities in an efficient and timely manner, and further recognizes the provision in section A on budget reform in the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session on the programme and budget for the biennium 2006–2007, including the request that the Executive Secretary take additional measures necessary to address those recommendations, ensure that the financial rules are fully respected in the future and report on this matter to the meeting of the Bureau and in the performance report for the biennium 2006–2007;[7]

14. *Calls upon* Governments, and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[8] and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

15. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[10] and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

16. *Approves* the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties no later than 31 December 2011, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session;[11]

17. *Decides* to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2006–2007 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;

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[7] Ibid., decision 23/COP.7.

[8] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7–11.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[11] ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1, decision 26/COP.7.

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the eighth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

68th plenary meeting
22 December 2005